

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An exhaust emission control system for an internal combustion engine includes an exhaust passage that branches into a first exhaust branch passage and  
5 a second exhaust branch passage, which join at downstream ends thereof into a common exhaust passage, a NO<sub>x</sub> catalyst disposed in each of the exhaust branch passages, a particulate filter disposed in the common exhaust passage and located downstream of a joining point of the exhaust branch passages, and flow control  
10 valves that control the amounts of exhaust gas flowing through the respective exhaust branch passages.